

# TALLULAH FALLS SCHOOL

## *Magazine*

FALL 2018

**Featured:**  
Students get  
'outside the box' as  
TFS kicks off  
comprehensive  
**Outdoor Program**

*A global community*

*Twin Rivers Challenge recap*

*Golf Performance Lab*

*Volleyball 'Sweet 16'*



# A keen eye

When it comes to photography, eighth-grader Wyatt York of Mt. Airy has what is known as a 'good eye.' York recently visited the Atlanta Botanical Gardens while on a field trip with his classmates. He captured these beautiful images using a Samsung Galaxy Note 9 smart phone.



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ON THE COVER: Middle school students gather to ring the victory bell on the first day of the 2018-19 school year. Photo by E. Lane Gresham.

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*Tallahul Falls School Magazine is published by the TFS Office of Advancement*

**2018-19 – another record year**  
**Total enrollment: 531 students**  
**Upper school: 297 students**  
**Middle school: 234 students**  
**Boarding students: 132 students**  
**Commuter students: 399 students**  
**Countries represented: 17 (including the U.S.)**  
**States represented: 8**



## MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

LARRY A. PEEVY

### Expanding the TFS experience



Ten years ago, we adjusted our mission to include the development of character to complement the focus on academic excellence. We believe better decisions are made by individuals who are intelligent and also have high moral and ethical values.

As we start the 2018-19 academic year, we are placing emphasis on two additional areas – not necessarily as part of the mission statement but simply because we feel these areas add to the quality of life for most of our students.

To promote the development of the total student, with the addition of a global experience, we expanded to 17 the number of countries our students call home. By broadening the international experience, students can live in the dorms together, attend class, go on trips, play sports and learn to communicate effectively with their peers during meals. This global exposure gives everyone a better understanding of how people think and live in many parts of the world. This shared time together will go a long way when these young people become leaders in their communities, in business and in the political arena. A better understanding of other cultures hopefully will produce more positive outcomes when major decisions are made by our future leaders.

The second addition is an expanded focus on the outdoor experience. With the launch of an outdoor

club at the upper school and an outdoor education elective at the middle school, students are enjoying more time outside learning and growing. Tallulah Falls School is located in one of the most breathtaking sections of the entire country. We feel it is important to share this beautiful area in an educational way with our students.

Throughout the campus in all disciplines, we are refocusing our attention on the advantages we have right outside our back door. Providing opportunities for students to go whitewater rafting, hiking, challenging themselves on a ropes course or fishing in local trout streams broadens their understanding of how learning takes place outside the traditional classroom. We even have some areas on campus designated as “outdoor classrooms.”

We invite you to learn more about the global experience and the expanded outdoor educational offerings as you savor the stories collected for you in this issue. Other highlights include a summary of the recent Twin Rivers Challenge, the annual cycling event fundraiser for student scholarships, the transferring of the gavel to Gail Cantrell, the new board of trustees chair, a welcome to new faculty/staff, fall sports updates and individual student honors.

Thank you for your continued support for the Tallulah Falls School community.

Warmest regards,

Larry A. Peevy  
President and Head of School

## TFS welcomes Gail Cantrell as new Board Chair

Gail Cantrell, a veteran of more than three decades as an active member of the Georgia Federation of Women’s Clubs, has assumed the reigns as chairperson of the Tallulah Falls School Board of Trustees. Cantrell follows Amy Atkinson who served a very successful term from 2014-18.

Cantrell, a Carrollton native, first became a member of the board in 1998 and has been an strong supporter of the school for many years.

Cantrell is currently active in two separate woman’s clubs; she joined the Carrollton Juniors in 1981 and was a charter member of the Bremen Junior Woman’s Club which was organized in 1994. She was active in each club and served as president of each club twice.

“I have held all the elected positions at the club and district level except treasurer,” said Cantrell. “Though I have been secretary-treasurer at my church for more than 30 years. I never wanted to handle any other monies.”

In 1998 Cantrell was named Sixth District President of the Georgia Federation of Women’s Clubs and by virtue of the office she first became a member of the TFS Board of Trustees.

“I fell in love with Tallulah Falls School and its students many years ago,” said Cantrell. “Over the last ten years our campus has become even more beautiful, our students have

*“I fell in love with Tallulah Falls School and its students many years ago.”*

*- Gail Cantrell*



become even more remarkable and our faculty and staff even more incredible!”

“We have one of the top boarding/day schools in the country and it’s only going to become even more successful. TFS will continue to grow stronger, experienced and

enthusiastic as we build a brighter future together.”

President and Head of School Dr. Larry A. Peevy is thrilled with the appointment.

“Over the past 11 years I have had the pleasure of working with four great board chairs: Mrs. Gewene Womack, Mrs. Ellen Alderman, Mrs. Amy Atkinson and our newest Chair of the Board of Trustees, Mrs. Gail Cantrell. We have enjoyed 11 years of tremendous

growth both in number and quality of students. I see this continuing under the excellent leadership of Gail Cantrell.”

Cantrell retired from a career as a paralegal in 2012 after more than 25 years of service. She has two children and three grandchildren.

“Gail is very supportive and has a tremendous love for the school and the students. I am excited to have the opportunity to work with her and look forward to continued growth and prosperity for the school.”

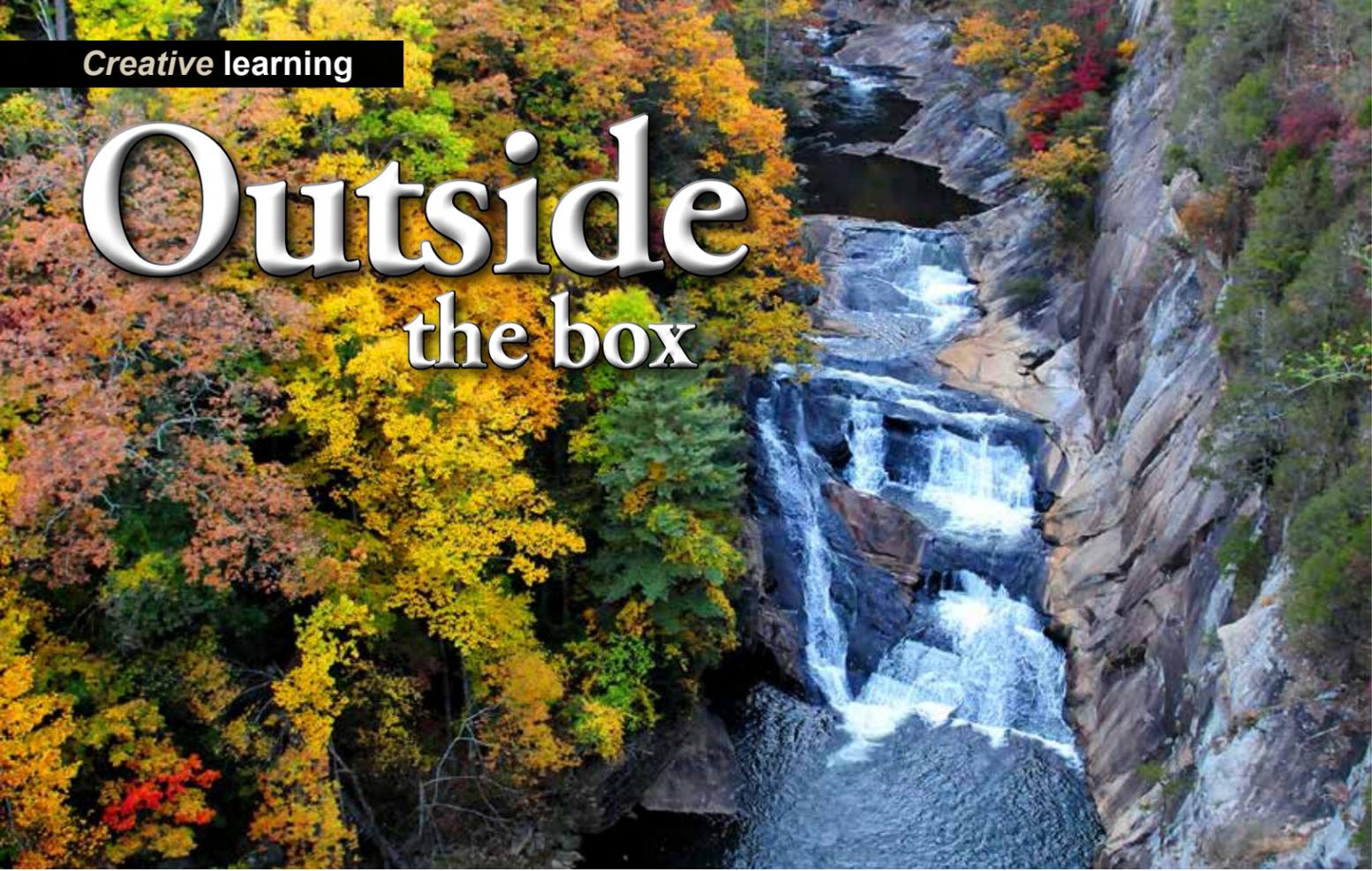
Dr. Larry A. Peevy  
President and Head of School

Tallulah Falls School  
2018-19 Board of Trustees



Pictured, back row, from left: Mark Rasmussen, Dr. Judy Taylor, Suzanne Ratliff, Jim Weidner, Matt McClurg, Rev. James Turpen, Sr., Greg Brown, Donna Foland, Dr. Karen Thomson and Dr. Larry A. Peevy. Front row, from left: Kathy Hanna, Elizabeth Wells, Lucy Willard, Gewene Womack, Dr. Judy Forbes, Gail Cantrell, Elizabeth Chadwick, Peggy Pruett, Amy Atkinson and Dale Reddick. Not Pictured: Ellen Alderman, Doris Alexander, Becky Bolden, Tina Daniel, Carolyn Friedlander, Alice “Cookie” Noel, Terry Rogers and Rick Story.

# Outside the box



## TFS starts new chapter in innovative learning with newly launched Outdoor Program

story by E. Lane Gresham

**G**et outside. That's a refrain heard often at Tallulah Falls School. And outside they go – middle school students with science teacher Zac Roland and upper school students before and after school with Roland and several other faculty members.

Two new outdoor programs are available this year with an additional special project in the works with a high-profile conservation focus.

Roland is teaching the outdoor education class as an elective at the middle school and the upper school has added a before/after-school outdoor experience club.

Sophomore Anna Paige Barrett of Clarkesville is a leader in the club. The purpose of the club, according to Barrett is for students to grow closer through time spent in nature.

"I love this club because it doesn't matter what your skill level is because I feel like we do activities that all can do," Barrett said. "It is offered to all grade levels at the high school. It is a very laid back club."

Students suggest and plan the excursions, Roland said, allowing for leadership opportunities woven into whatever adventures might end up on the calendar.

So far this year, the group has met for early morning and after-school hikes, leaving from campus. Roland said the outings don't have to be complicated and he wants the students to be reminded of the natural beauty surrounding the TFS campus.

"Instead of getting on buses and going other places, we walk from here," he said. "It allows the kids to connect to this piece of earth that they share together here."

Freshman Trevor Bramlett says the club allows for an escape from everyday stress.

"It is a great way to leave your problems and worries behind," Bramlett said. "Every outing is a grand adventure with the great outdoors. We learn about nature by being immersed within it and have an exciting time."

The middle school outdoor education elective rotates every nine weeks, allowing 14 students each session to spend more time outside.

The students through an extended day have conquered a low ropes course, gone on hikes and spent time around the fire pit, Roland said.

For Roland, who completed his Masters in Outdoor Education in 2018, merging the outdoors and his love for motivating young people is a natural fit.

Facing page: TFS students find incredible beauty just a short walk away. Pictured is L'Eau d'or Falls in Tallulah Gorge State Park. Photo by Brian Boyd.

He's been working with children since he started helping in the church nursery as a young child. When he was in college, he considered quitting but a professor illuminated what would be his future with a simple classroom field trip.

He spent time at Cumberland Island, the Okefenokee Swamp and the Smoky Mountains during college as an undergraduate.

Realizing he was a valued member of the team taught him that each member brought a specific talent to the experience.

"Being outdoors brought that out," he said. "I might not be the one to write up the report, but I was the one willing to dive in with the alligator. Or grab the snake...I could bring something to the team. [Being] outdoors allows that to happen better. Different things are valued in different situations. A lot of times you don't get that in a traditional classroom."

Also new this year is the school's partnership with the Turner Foundation to establish a youth board of directors

"It [the outdoor program] is a great way to leave your problems and worries behind. Every outing is a grand adventure with the great outdoors. We learn about nature by being immersed within it and have an exciting time."

- Freshman Trevor Bramlett

to direct funding for conservation projects. According to Roland, 30 students in grades six-12 are committed to the board. Building community is the first priority, he said.

The students will collaborate to identify a specific need and then prepare a grant application for submission to the Turner Foundation.

"This is a way of investing in the kids so the kids can invest in the community," Roland said.

Board members and adult chaperons will spend four days on Cumberland Island during the February school break to continue team building. Leading up to the trip, the group will be learning more about the history of the island, including its environmental importance in the barrier island ecology.

The school also has an opportunity to use the facilities at Camp Rainey Mountain, owned and managed by the Boys Scouts of America/Northeast Georgia Council. Roland is in touch with camp administration about how the school can use the facilities located near Clayton. ■



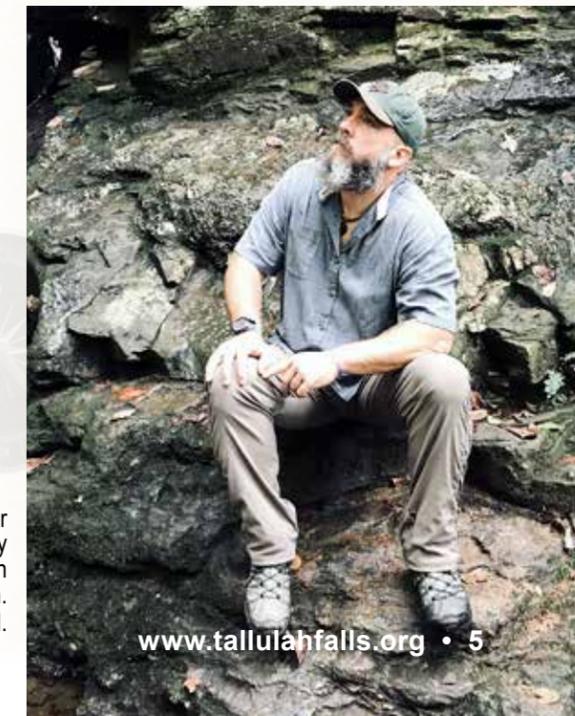
Students examine a tiny toad during their outdoor education time. Submitted.



Faculty member Shelby Day (center) with students on a short hike on Tallulah Gorge State Park's Shortline Trail. Submitted.



Students acquire outdoor skills as part of the program, such as this traditional method of starting a fire. Submitted.



Program director Zac Roland recently acquired a Masters in Outdoor Education. Submitted.

# A growing global footprint

By Jordan West • TFS dorm counselor



## Students from 17 countries now call TFS home

Since Tallulah Falls School welcomed its first international boarding students in the early 2000s, the school's environment has been enhanced by cultural diversity. August 2018 marked a new milestone for TFS, as students from 17 countries joined the Tallulah Falls family to begin a new school year.

The journey from various parts of the world to the North Georgia mountains looks different for each student. Some hope to better their English speaking skills, while others are striving for athletic or academic opportunities. For many students, the desire to immerse themselves in a new culture is a common thread.

"I tried to find a school that didn't have a large Japanese population, and I wanted to challenge myself in that way," said Miyu Sugiura, a senior and native of Japan. Her journey to TFS began more than three years ago with a desire to simply step outside of her comfort zone.

"I had to make friends and practice my English," she said. "I guess some people might wonder why I wanted to struggle, but I just didn't see it like that. I had a positive attitude and I was really excited to make friends with people from the United States and other countries."

Dr. Larry A. Peevy, TFS President and Head of School, along with Kelly Woodall, Dean of Enrollment Management, traveled to Spain in the spring of 2018 to meet potential strong academic TFS students. In the fall, six Spanish students travelled from their homes to enroll at Tallulah Falls School.

"I wanted to come here because I hoped to get a good college prep education and to play basketball," said Juan Bachiller, a junior from Spain. "Everyone in the world knows that the United States has the best basketball, so I wanted to have that experience."

"All of the people at TFS are so friendly," said Bachiller. "They know you are a long way from home, so they want to help you feel like you are at home here."

*"I guess some people might wonder why I wanted to struggle, but I just didn't see it like that. I had a positive attitude and I was really excited to make friends with people from the United States and other countries."*

*-Miyu Sugiura  
senior from Japan*



*International boarding students are able to enjoy a wide variety of activities in the dorms, on campus and throughout the region.*



Mengfan "Frank" Huang of China, began at TFS as a freshman, and just started his senior year.

"I wanted to meet new people and experience different things, and I hoped that going to school would give me a different life later," he said. "I knew I wanted to go to an American university, and my family believes that the universities here are the best in the world. Starting at an American prep school gave me an absolute advantage to be able to do that."

"The first two or three months here were the hardest as I learned how to communicate with others and the school," Huang said. "Most of the time I just stayed around my Chinese friends. After two months, I joined the junior varsity basketball team, and I met lots of other students, and had a new community. I also joined Key Club, Tri-M Music Honor Society and the Recycling Club, which helped me meet teachers and other people. Even going to class allowed me to meet other people; when we had group projects, I was able to work with others who became friends."

Peevy is justifiably proud of the impact that international students have on Tallulah Falls School.

"Developing friendships with people from other countries gives everyone a better understanding of how people think and live in other parts of the world," Peevy said. "As these young people become leaders, this broadening of the global perspective will strengthen relationships to produce more positive outcomes in the future when they become leaders."

In addition to the United States, countries represented on the Tallulah Falls campus include the Bahamas, Cambodia, the Cayman Islands, China, Honduras, Japan, Liberia, Mexico, Montenegro, Nigeria, Rwanda, South Korea, Spain, Thailand, Ukraine, and the United Kingdom. Though the homes of students at Tallulah Falls span across the world, their global community celebrates the vast backgrounds, families and stories that bring the TFS campus together. ■



*Celebrating International Day with a traditional Chinese dance.*

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*- Dr. Larry A. Peevy  
President and Head of School*

Mission focused:  
Encouraging academic excellence

It's all  
HONOR

Fall 2018 honor society inductions



Tallulah Falls School recently inducted six new members into the International Thespian Society (ITS). Pictured front row, from left: Yishu (Betty) Lu, Cassidy Elliott, Sagia Banford, Juyeong An. Back row, from left: Jialu (Ray) Sheng, A.J. Hayes.

The International Thespian Society promotes excellence in theater education and has troupes across the country in both public and private schools. Membership qualifications include working the equivalent of 100 hours in school, community and/or professional theater both on the stage and behind the scenes. The ITS is sponsored by TFS drama teacher Carrie Elrod Layer.



The Tallulah Falls School Chapter 4174 of the Tri-M Music Honor Society inducted eight new members this fall.

The new inductees are (pictured from left): Selah Anderson, Yihan (Eva) Fang, Ben Maxwell, Caleb Carter, Baylee MacBeth, Zhiyuan (Jerry) Zhou, XueWei (Melody) An, Megan Zimmerman. The TFS Tri-M chapter is under the sponsorship of upper school music teacher Curt Frederick.



The National Art Honor Society (NAHS) inducted 26 new members this fall. Pictured, front row, from left: Janki Patel, Katy Corbett, Caroline Turpin, Brinson Hall, Abby Carlan, Anna May, Alyssa Cone, Nathan Lewis. Second row, from left: Samantha Stamey, Mary Sanders, Laurel Smith, Jiajun (Ray) Pan, Maggie Jackson, Abby Carlan, Dahyun Kim, Anna Waites, Norah Griswold. Back row: Huiyi (Alice) Peng, Xi He, Cynthia Jackson, Grace Kim, Allie Campbell, Chaz Mullis, Rey David Vargas, Ben Fisher, Logan Huling.

NAHS was established in 1978 by the National Art Education Association for students in grades 10-12 with the purpose of inspiring and recognizing students who have shown an outstanding ability in art and to assist these students to attain their highest potential in all forms of art.



Scholarship,  
Leadership,  
Service and  
Character

Thirty-two new members recited the National Honor Society oath of membership in September as they were inducted into the TFS chapter of the prestigious academic organization.

The National Honor Society is the nation's premier organization recognizing outstanding high school students who demonstrate excellence in key areas, known as pillars: scholarship, leadership, service and character.

The TFS chapter is sponsored by faculty members Terri Bogan and Kelli Bly.

Inductees are (alphabetically): XueWei An, Sagia Branford, Stephen Bowman, Abby Carlan, Caleb Carter, Hoakan Cheng, Katy Corbett, Zach Corwin, Winston Davis, Gianna Diaz, Haley Dowdy, Yihan Fang, Chris Geiger, Brinson Hall, Xi He, Moshen Hu, Maggie Jackson, Hayden Johnson, Dahyun Kim, Hongxi Liu, Baylee MacBeth, Samuel McAllister, Khalisah Momoh, John Nichols, Abby Peacock, Lane Poole, Mandy Santana, Zhiyang Shu, Marvin Thiennukul, Caroline Turpin, Mikhail Vallecorse, Zhiyuan Zhou.



2018-19  
TFS Student  
Ambassadors



Role models  
projecting a positive  
image of the school

TFS Ambassadors serve as role models for their peers while projecting a positive image of the school both on and off campus. Students become ambassadors through a nomination process by members of the staff for exhibiting outstanding character and leadership. Pictured, front row, from left: Virginia Griswold, Nora Griswold, Sarah Edwards, Laurel Smith, Abby Carlan, President and Head of School Larry A. Peevy, Reid Kafsky, Jihee Han, Mia Kwarteng, Abby Peacock, Sophie Alexander. Second row, from left: Sydney Spivey, Madison Ball, Marvin Thiennukul, Moshen Hu, Chaz Mullis, Maggie Jackson, Brinson Hall, Sydney Coffey, Katy Corbett. Third row, from left: Ajani McIntosh, Caleb Griffis, Will Jackson, Madeline McClurg, Emily Wonders, Lane Poole, Kale Corbett, Collin Kelly, Nyah Williams, Isabeau Keene. Back row, from left: Hayden Johnson, Mengfan Huang, Thomas Harris, Paul Chambers, Sebastian Herrera, Riley Barron, David Woods, Grey Bourlet, SiXuan Li, Reeves Cody, Eli Sims, Whit Fordham, Xing Fan, Sutherland Cope.



### Freshman's artwork featured in Southern Teacher's Agency academic calendar



**F**reshman Allie Dalton of Baldwin captured the essence of springtime in one of her recent paintings. Dalton was honored by the Southern Teachers Agency as her watercolor creation, "Spring at Front Entrance," was featured in the organization's 2018-19 academic calendar. Dalton's work was selected for April 2019. Dalton was an eighth grader under the direction of TFS middle school art teacher Cat Hermes last year when she created the piece.

Each year the Southern Teachers Agency selects 12 samples of artwork for publication in the calendar and on their website. The printed calendar is sent to more than 2,000 private/independent schools around the country. Each of the 12 winners receives five copies of the calendar and \$50 in gifts certificates for art supplies.

### TFS senior trains with the renowned Rockettes



Madeline McClurg (above) and below (front and center) performing at the summer intensive program. Submitted.



**S**enior Madeline McClurg of Clarkesville lived out a dream over the summer as she spent a week in New York City training with the world-famous Rockettes. McClurg participated in the annual Rockettes Summer Intensive program which is designed for advanced dancers desiring to train in the famous Rockettes style. The 2018 intensive was the 16th year of the program and has produced more than 70 Rockettes.

"My instructors were four current Rockettes, and along with learning Rockette choreography, I also got an inside look into their lifestyles and how they prepare for *The Christmas Spectacular* every year."

The week involved six days of intensive training which McClurg said prepared her for the final showcase of three dances which included, "The Parade of the Wooden Soldiers," a number the Rockettes have been performing since 1933.

"The whole week really made me realize how hard I am willing to work to make this dream happen. Not only would I get to dance at Radio City Music Hall with other passionate women, but I would also get to live in my favorite city - NYC!"

**A**t the recent Georgia Independent School Association (GISA) Conference, long-serving Tallulah Falls School math teacher Linda Harris celebrated a rare honor as she was recognized for her 50 years of service at TFS.

TFS President and Head of School Dr. Larry A. Peevy, who serves on the GISA board of trustees, presented the award to Harris on Nov. 5. "Solomon Ortiz stated that teachers are our greatest public servants; they spend their lives educating our young people and shaping our nation for tomorrow," Peevy said. "This teacher has given 54 years to educating young people – 50 of them at Tallulah Falls School – and she continues strong with each day that passes."

Harris has taught math from seventh grade through AP Calculus and in recent years, dual enrollment college algebra, college pre-calculus, college calculus.

While teaching math, she also earned her media specialist degree, and she works in the media center after school.

"Linda has not only given thousands of hours to students but has been the lead faculty member for all of our teachers, new and veteran," Peevy said.

"She has served behind the scenes on our hospitality committee making sure all our teachers feel special throughout the year. Alumni often contact her to ask about a math problem or have her tutor them or their children over the summer."

She serves a mentor to many, he said. "Linda can also be observed during faculty meetings giving great advice and encouragement to her fellow teachers," Peevy added. "Her energy and charisma are contagious, and we have been blessed to be a part of her amazing educational journey."

### Harris receives GISA's first-ever award for 50 years of service

**50** years (and counting)



Shown, from left, are GISA President Jeff Jackson, Larry A. Peevy, Linda Harris and GISA Vice President Stan Whitlock. Photo courtesy of GISA.

Look for more on Linda Harris' incredible career in an upcoming edition of the TFS magazine.

### ★★ All-Star Cast ★★

### TFS thespians honored at Region One Act competition

**E**mily Smith, a freshman from Cornelia and Madison Perdue, a freshman from Clayton, each were selected for All-Cast honors during the Region 4A One Act Competition held at Piedmont College on October 27. The TFS troupe performed *James and the Giant Peach* on Piedmont's Swanson Center stage.

TFS drama teacher Carrie Layer was thrilled for her two cast members.

"These ladies were first to be called to the stage to be recognized as we were the first to perform," Layer said. "They made TFS extremely proud by showing excellent sportsmanship as they congratulated every other performer recognized with high-fives and supportive words."

The TFS campus community was able to enjoy the production as well as the TFS Players presented two encore performances on the TFS campus in early November.



Madison Perdue



Emily Smith

Check the TFS calendar on the school's website for upcoming productions by The TFS Players.

Whether it is on campus benefiting fellow students or in the community doing for others who cannot give anything in return, TFS students excel at serving.

### Varsity volleyball raises funds to support patients battling breast cancer

The TFS varsity volleyball team once again held their annual 'Play for the Cure' night this season. The team honored TFS Spanish teacher Chantal Gourlay (pictured at right) who is a breast cancer survivor. Coach Matt Heyl's ladies raised more than \$400 which was donated to the Evie Peters Foundation, a domestic non-profit organization providing support for residents of Habersham County being treated for breast cancer.



### Varsity boys basketball volunteers to assist TFS drama program

The varsity boys basketball team gave up one of their Saturdays earlier this fall to help the TFS drama program with a lengthy to-do list, according to varsity coach Jim Van Hooser. The boys worked under the direction of TFS drama teacher Carrie Layer (pictured at far right). The team took apart old sets, constructed shelving, built racks to hang costumes, moved furniture and props and cleaned the theater from top to bottom.

"We talk frequently about the importance of servant leadership and the boys really understand that to be leaders of the school, it's important to help other programs within the school," Van Hooser said. "Not only did they accomplish a lot but they had a blast doing it."



submitted

### MS Tennis team provides a treat for the ears and the tongue

Members of the TFS middle school tennis team lifted the hearts of residents of the Magnolia Hills Retirement Home recently. The team visited the Demorest facility and serenaded the seniors with three songs, *Amazing Grace*, *Count on Me*, and *My Country, 'Tis of Thee*. The musical performance was under the direction of middle school music teacher Memrie Cox.

In addition, players delivered homemade cookies to the welcoming residents. The players decorated the bags and customized them with each resident's name. The bags were then personally distributed to each Magnolia Hills resident. All seemed touched by the sentiment.

"Each of our players was eager to do their part," said coach Lisa Wilcox. "Whether singing or giving out treats, all of our kids had a very good time with the residents. It was a day I will never forget as a coach witnessing the special bond between our youth and the elderly residents."



### Interact Club supports American Red Cross by hosting blood drive

The TFS Interact Club hosted another successful American Red Cross (ARC) blood drive in September. Thirty-one units were collected at the September event. According to social studies teacher Dallas Barron, Interact Club sponsor, up to 93 people could receive life-saving blood transfusions as a result of the drive. September was flagged as a time of critical need by the ARC, making the donations by students, faculty, staff and parents even more important. Interact will host their next blood drive on campus in March.



submitted

### MS Volleyball supports Epilepsy Awareness

There were purple cupcake toppers, bracelets and clothing as the middle school volleyball team honored TFS sophomore Anna Paige Barrett (pictured in the dark purple shirt at right) at a Volleyball for Epilepsy awareness event. Special t-shirts were just one sign of support for their fellow student who was diagnosed with epilepsy at age 11.

Anna Paige's sister, Emma Barrett joined teammates in sharing statistics about the disease and its impact on young lives. During a break in the match against Habersham County, Anna Paige shared her thoughts on her journey,



submitted

including what it felt like to experience an epileptic seizure.

It was a sweet surprise for Anna Paige to see friends and family wearing the special shirts in her honor. Funds raised from the event went to the Epilepsy Foundation to fund research for a cure.

### MS Soccer continues volunteer relationship with H4H ReStore



submitted

The middle school soccer team began working with the Clarkesville Habitat for Humanity ReStore in 2017. This year coach Travis Mullis' team has visited the facility on three separate occasions. The boys helped remove unused displays and recycle the materials, painted, performed yard-



submitted

work and disposed of refuse at the facility. Director Mary Wilson (pictured in blue) has expressed gratefulness for the team's involvement. Coach Mullis even noted that because of his team's involvement several of the players' families have become involved at the ReStore as well.



story by E. Lane Gresham

The hills were alive with cyclists on Oct. 27 as the fourth annual Twin Rivers Challenge rolled out from Tallulah Falls School. A fundraiser for student scholarships, this year's ride proved again to be a highlight for local and visiting riders and providing a more than \$50,000 boost to the scholarship fund.

With more than 120 sponsors, school representatives are pleased with the event's expanding reputation as the signature ride in Northeast Georgia.

"We are delighted that our guests had such a great experience," said President and Head of School Larry Peevy. "When we launched this event in 2015, we knew the potential was there for it to grow. The scenic beauty along the route, support for the riders and TFS hospitality makes for a winning combination."

Again this year, Ron Cantrell Construction, Inc. covered all expenses as the presenting sponsor and Springer Mountain Farms sponsored the post-ride meal.

"Having these corporate partners allows all other sponsorships and rider registration fees to directly benefit our students," Peevy said. "We are humbled by this response to the TFS story. With the support of so many businesses, organizations, vendors and individuals, it is evident the community understands our mission to provide a top-quality college preparatory education for motivated students, regardless of income."

One of those students was the first cyclist to cross the finish line this year. Eighth-grader Gavin Atkinson of Sautee Nacoochee, a first-time participant but an experienced mountain biker, pushed hard to finish his route.

"I really wanted to get into road biking. Since the school year started I have been wanting to do this ride...I was excited to also help benefit the school," Atkinson said. "My favorite part about the ride for sure is the scenery on the backroads. It's just absolutely beautiful. Also on the ride, everyone is super nice to talk to and just in a very positive mood."

Rider feedback echoed from previous years with many of the cyclists returning again and again.

Clint Williams with Ethicon, Inc. is one of the repeat supporters of the ride. "Having competed in many events similar to the Twin Rivers Challenge all across the Southeastern United States, I can tell you that I have yet to participate in an event that is organized with the level of enthusiasm, energy and commitment that equals this event," Williams said.

*continued at the top of page 16*

## RECORD RIDE

Students once again are the big winners from annual event

### 2018 TRC t-shirt art contest winner



The 2018 ride t-shirt artwork was designed by TFS senior Maria Chiuz Escobar of Honduras. Escobar is pictured above with TFS art teacher Tina Cheek. Escobar's artwork is pictured at the top left of this page. Eighth graders Maddie Mullis and Gavin Atkinson, both of Sautee Nacoochee, placed second and third, respectively.

**THANK YOU** to our sponsors for making the fourth annual Twin Rivers Challenge a record ride!



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“The level of community engagement is evident as the course layout takes advantage of some of the best roads in the area and all the local people seem eager to wave and support the riders as they roll by and the rest stops are packed with great fuel and excitement from the staff. The most rewarding aspect of the ride is knowing the proceeds from the ride are directed toward advancing the educational opportunities for future students at TFS. As an employee of Ethicon, Inc., the strong sense of community involvement and educational support is the thread that connects great sponsors and great events such as the Twin Rivers Challenge.”

Community co-chairs for the event, Judy Forbes and Joey Brown provide expertise in key areas. Forbes, a TFS board member coordinates fundraising efforts on behalf of the board and cultivates community relations on behalf of the school.

“The Twin Rivers Challenge continues to be a successful fundraising activity to support student scholarships. Without our generous sponsors, however, this project would not provide

the vital support system which our students need. Every dollar raised is utilized for scholarships which are provided to approximately 70 percent of our students,” Forbes said. “In the four years of our bike ride, each year we have surpassed our goal and generated more funds than the preceding year. On behalf of the TFS student recipients, I want to thank our sponsors and riders for making this is a memorable and profitable event.”

Brown said he continues to hear compliments about the experience from the cycling community.

“Many riders commented on the beauty of the routes,” Brown said. “Riders also commented on how well the roads were marked along with the great SAG stops. For many, the meal following the ride was the perfect ending to a great day on the bike. Our friends from Florida said they would be back next year and would be bringing others with them. The event continues to impress riders of all abilities.”

**The fifth annual Twin Rivers Challenge is set for Oct. 26, 2019. For more information, visit [tallulahfalls.org/TRC](http://tallulahfalls.org/TRC).**

## GBI agent educates students on the dangers of the internet and social media

Tallulah Falls School works tirelessly to safeguard its students. These efforts occur on many fronts including the hot-button issue of cybersafety. Special Agent Brooke Lindsey (pictured at right) with the Georgia Bureau of Investigation Child Exploitation and Computer Crimes Unit spoke to middle and upper school students at Tallulah Falls School on Sept. 26. Lindsey has visited TFS several times and serves as the go-to expert for internet safety.

“Special Agent Lindsey did a wonderful job helping our students to develop an awareness of the responsibilities that come with using the internet and social media,” said Middle School Academic Dean David Chester. “She emphasized the importance of students being cautious about what they post online and the websites that they visit as well as following the golden rule when communicating with each other via social media sites.”

For more information, visit <https://www.gaicactaskforce.com/internet-safety.html>.



## GFWC-GA clubs visits



Suburban Woman's Club of Augusta



Stone Mountain Woman's Club



Dunwoody Woman's Club

## Equestrian program rolling forward on two wheels

story by E. Lane Gresham

The signature equestrian program at Tallulah Falls School is rolling forward with the addition of competitive cart driving to the list of available activities for dedicated students.

Dinah Peevy, volunteer director of the equestrian program and wife of TFS President and Head of School Dr. Larry A. Peevy, invests a significant amount of time and resources into the four-day-per-week, after-school club available to both middle and high school students.

Safety is emphasized, she said, in all aspects of what the students learn and master in working with the horses on the school's farm.

The horse program, in place since 2011, attracts both males and females, Peevy said. It runs for two seasons, fall and spring. She donates the use of her horses, tack and other supplies for the school to use. Designed for youth to learn to ride and care for horses, it also offers a chance for students to work with smaller equines.

Included in the lessons are how to groom, lead, halter, bridle and saddle the horse; proper mounting and dismounting; maintaining and storing tack properly; general horse health care; and general safety procedures.

In addition to horsemanship basics, Peevy is working with a few of the experienced students training them to drive a cart. Showing and driving miniature horses is a passion for the experienced horsewoman. All the available slots in the school's after-school equestrian club were filled this fall, Peevy said.

“Our equestrian program goes beyond learning to ride and care for these special animals,” she said. “Our program strives to develop self-confidence, character and leadership in each participant.”

Students will compete next year in the spring and the fall, she said. Also on the list for the program members are field trips to area barns, seminars and volunteer opportunities.

“I want them to volunteer at shows so they can be exposed to other riders and different disciplines,” she said.

The club, Peevy said, inspires some of the students to take riding lessons beyond what the school offers.

“I want to expose students that love horses, giving them the opportunity for learning the right way to handle and work with their horses and to have fun,” she said. “We've had international students who had never been close to a horse before joining our equestrian group; they are very involved with the program and enjoy working with the horses. Many of our students refer to it as their stress relief.”

Peevy sometimes speaks to local saddle clubs to nurture the school's relationship with the area equestrian community. She continues to compete in driving at Nationals each year. In fact, she and her horses won ten national championships this past year at the Shetland Congress National Championships in St. Louis.

The awards and acclaim only strengthen the school's growing equestrian program and give the high-energy couple an activity they can both enjoy.



Dinah Peevy has amassed an impressive list of equestrian awards and accolades including several Grand National Champions. Photo courtesy of Casey McBride.

## Club adds competitive cart driving to its repertoire

Senior Ara Belk of Clarkesville was among the first TFS students to participate in the competitive cart driving portion of the equestrian program. File photo.



# 'All In!'

## Innovative new upper school initiative celebrates community and builds character



A newly launched community-building initiative in the TFS upper school spotlights and celebrates a different positive attribute each month of the academic year. *All In* is the name of the program and according to upper school academic dean Kim Popham, it will celebrate each theme by recognizing one student from each grade every month of the academic year as being excellent representatives for that month's area of focus.

For September the theme was *purpose*. Students chosen by members of the faculty and staff for exhibiting a strong sense of purpose were: freshman Emily Smith of Cleveland, sophomore Katy Corbett of Lakemont, junior Josh Shanks of Toccoa and senior Madison Ball of Tiger. "We are so proud of these students for setting a positive example of what 'purpose' means," said Popham.

Remaining themes for the year are: October - Creativity; November - Gratitude; December - Diligence; January - Community; February - Kindness; March - Aspirations; April - Stewardship; May - Pride.

"Our *All In* student council is made up of two students from each grade and two dorm representatives," said upper school academic dean Kim Popham. "They gathered ideas and themes from the entire student body last spring to bring our student body together."

On the first Friday of the new school year the *All In* program kicked off with a pizza party and games and activities on the TFS baseball field. Each member of the student body was given a special *All In* t-shirt. They were then divided into teams and enjoyed an afternoon of friendly games and spirited competition whose purpose was to build unity and community.

During the event members of the *All In* student council were given the opportunity to introduce themselves and share what it means to them to be part of the TFS family.

The council also introduced the year-long grade-level competition which culminates with a surprise and bragging rights at the end of the year. Throughout the year, there will be activities where the grade-level classes compete to earn points. Students can also earn their class points by attending *All In* school-wide events.

"We are excited about the *All In* initiative and know that great ideas are not developed overnight," said Popham. "They are planned, executed and evaluated. Remember, Thomas Edison once said, 'the light bulb was invented in 1,000 steps.'"

Upper school parents receive a newsletter each month of the academic year highlighting various aspects of the *All In* program and celebrating its successes.

We are looking forward to a great year at TFS. We hope you will join *All In* with us."



*All In* students of the month for August chosen for exemplifying *purpose*. From left: Katy Corbett, Madison Ball, Emily Smith and Josh Shanks.

Top photo: Senior Madison Ball models the *All In* t-shirt given to each upper school student in August.



submitted

## Hollywood comes to Toccoa

Isabelle Almoyan (Class of 2015) worked with several prominent actors over the summer as she served as a production assistant on the set of the film, *When We Last Spoke*. The film will be broadcast by the Hallmark Channel when production is completed. Filming took place in and around Toccoa. Almoyan is an interdisciplinary studies major at Liberty University concentrating in acting, cinematography and strategic communications. She is pictured with film icon Cloris Leachman who is still going strong at 92. Leachman is a Hollywood legend who starred in renowned films such as *The Last Picture Show*, *Butch Cassidy and the Sundance Kid* and *Young Frankenstein*. Almoyan also met actress Melissa Gilbert and actor Corbin Bernsen during filming. Almoyan was a standout thespian during her time at TFS and her dream job is to be on the other side of the camera, as an actress, after she earns her degree in 2019.

## A 'Chance' encounter for TFS art students

TFS art students were recently treated to a special guest as TFS Alumni, **Chance Hunter (Class of 2012)** conducted a workshop on the method of Japanese book binding known as *Yotsume Toji*. Hunter, now completing his Masters Degree in Art Education and a graduate assistantship at Piedmont College, gave students a wealth of information about Piedmont's growing art department and the excellent opportunities for a career in the visual arts. Hunter is pictured at far right.



submitted



submitted

## Paying a visit to our Endeavour

Joseph Boyd (Class of 2009) took this photo of the retired space shuttle *Endeavour* during an August trip to Los Angeles. The shuttle was moved to the Samuel Oschin Air and Space Center located at the California Science Center in 2012. Tallulah Falls School received national recognition in 1989 when it was named the winner in the secondary division in a national contest to name the replacement orbiter after the *Challenger* disaster in 1989. *Endeavour* flew 25 missions into earth orbit from 1992-2011 and carried payloads used to construct the International Space Station. Boyd is employed as a transportation planner for the Gainesville-Hall County Municipal Planning Organization.



**T**FS golfers are benefiting from an exciting new state-of-the-art practice facility sure to cut a few strokes off their game. In fact, the new Golf Performance Lab would be the envy of many colleges and universities. Over the summer the new 1,500+ square foot practice facility was constructed on the first floor of the Lettie Pate Evans Student Center adjacent to the TFS weight room. The site became available with the construction of the Higgins Baseball Complex and the indoor practice facility last year.

The lab provides complete diagnostics of each player's swing using high speed cameras and simulates dozens of golf courses from around the country. It also has putting and chipping stations so that players can practice all aspects of their game.

"This set-up allows for me to work with players at all skill levels, from beginner to advanced," said golf coach Allen Campbell. "I can work with them on an individual or group level. The system provides immediate feedback from the information provided from the launch monitor. Using the GASP system with the high-speed cameras allows each player to see their swings and make corrections



Above: Sophomore Selah Anderson receives immediate feedback on the accuracy and trajectory of her drive from the new system.

Right: Sophomore Maggie Jackson practices chipping from the variety of synthetic surfaces which simulate greens, fairways and rough.

Below: Coach Allen Campbell observes Maggie Jackson as she drives the ball. The computerized system records her swing from several angles so that athletes and coaches may observe and improve form. Sophomore Brinson Hall (right) practices her putting in the spacious new facility.



"Being able to play courses on the simulator at all times when we couldn't play an actual course - at night, in the winter, when it's raining, etc. - allows the players to hone their skills throughout the year. Plus it's fun!"

-golf coach Allen Campbell

based on that information. This way they can correct flaws and not develop improper mechanics."

Members of the TFS golf team are equally as enthusiastic about the new practice facility. "The Golf Performance Lab is a wonderful resource," said sophomore Maggie Jackson. "I am now more familiar with my distances for each of my clubs than ever. My game is more precise and as a result I am shooting my lowest tournament rounds."

"My favorite thing about the new facility is the different thickness and textures of grasses. This has helped my short game. I can practice chips and pitches in almost every kind of lie," Jackson said.

Sophomore Brinson Hall also remarked that the lab had improved her game. "The biggest improvement was to my chipping. I was able to work on that in the lab and really get a handle on my technique. My favorite thing is the new camera system. It allows players to record themselves from two different angles and to slow down their swing so that we can study it closely."

## THOR Guard system minimizes lightning threat at TFS athletic fields

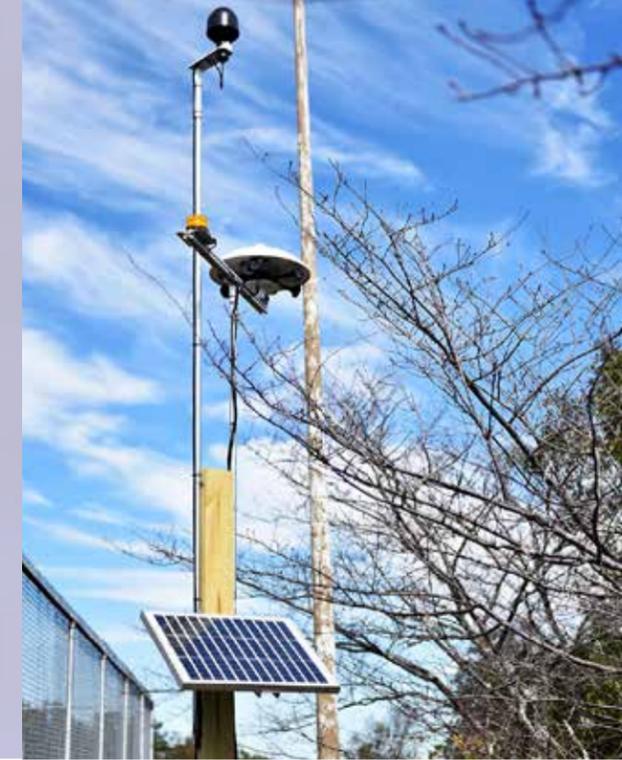
**L**ightning presents one of the greatest single threats to athletes and spectators during outdoor competition. According to statistics compiled by the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) an average of 51 deaths occur in the U.S. each year from lightning strikes. The THOR Guard lightning detection/prediction system was recently installed at the TFS athletic complex to provide an extra layer of safety for TFS athletes, students, coaches and spectators.

Until recently, technology could only determine if a lightning strike had occurred within a certain distance of any particular location. The THOR Guard system can not only detect, but actually predict a lightning strike.

"The system sounds a horn for 15 seconds when lightning is predicted," said Dustin Rogers, TFS Director of Security. "When you hear this horn, you should immediately seek shelter. Coaches or teachers supervising students should immediately direct them to a shelter. Game managers should inform spectators to find shelter or to get into their automobiles."

Once lightning has been detected or predicted, a strobe light located on top of the system will flash until the area has been cleared of danger. Once cleared, three five-second blasts from the horn will sound.

building a safer campus



## Alums Davis and Wilcox inducted into BLITZ Sports Georgia Hall of Fame Class of 2018



**T**wo former Tallulah Falls School student-athletes have been named to the BLITZ Sports Georgia Hall of Fame 2018 Class. Inductees are Anna Davis of Clarkesville, a 2018 graduate and Trey Wilcox of Tallulah Falls, a member of the Class of 2017.

BLITZ Sports Georgia is a regional media outlet focusing on varsity athletes from the Northeast Georgia area. The Hall of Fame opened in 2016 and has inducted 120 student athletes in its first three years. The Hall of Fame also consists of some 43 Hall of Fame teams.

"Most don't realize how much athletic adversity Anna Davis had to overcome," said TFS athletic director Scott Neal. "How much focused time she has spent in the off-seasons, how much she has researched and studied and honed skills and strategies, or how much winning for others and for TFS has influenced her tenacious mindset."

Davis made TFS history by becoming the first female athlete to win a state title. Davis actually won two as a senior in 2018 - the 100-meter hurdles and the 300-meter hurdles. She totaled two area championships in her career and six area runner-up finishes. Davis now competes at Division III Davidson College in North Carolina.

Trey Wilcox distinguished himself at TFS with a powerful combination of athletic achievement, academic success and tenacious team mentality. Wilcox dominated tennis with a 41-2 record over a three-year span from 2015-17 and was named Player of the Year three times. As a junior at Rabun County High School in 2016 he was a perfect 19-0, winning 93% of his games and 100% of his sets. Wilcox earned first-team all-region honors all three years.

Wilcox also was a major contributor to the 2016-17 TFS basketball team that went 25-4 earning a Sweet 16 berth. Wilcox also earned first-team All-Region honors as a baseball player and was named TFS Indian of the Year. Athletic Director Scott Neal stated, "Trey's team influence went well beyond his own goals and accomplishments. His teammates respected and admired him, and his coaches praised his work ethic and his influence upon our teams."

# Volleyball makes a bold STATE-ment

The 2018 Lady Indians volleyball season was one for the record books as the team made history by fighting their way into the second round of the state tournament. This was the first time the Lady Indians advanced into the second round in the program's 16-year history.

It all began in the summer when first-year head coach Matt Heyl conducted summer camp. "The girls developed an openness and trust with each other at camp," said Heyl. "They set goals for the season and embraced the belief that in spite of losing eight players from last year's successful squad, they could be the best volleyball team TFS has ever had. With every success our beliefs about this team continued to grow throughout the season."

With an impressive season record of 31-18 the girls did indeed achieve their stated goal. Heyl's squad earned their highest-ever finish at the Region tournament and advanced all the way to the Sweet Sixteen at state. Their grueling 49-match mark was also a school record.



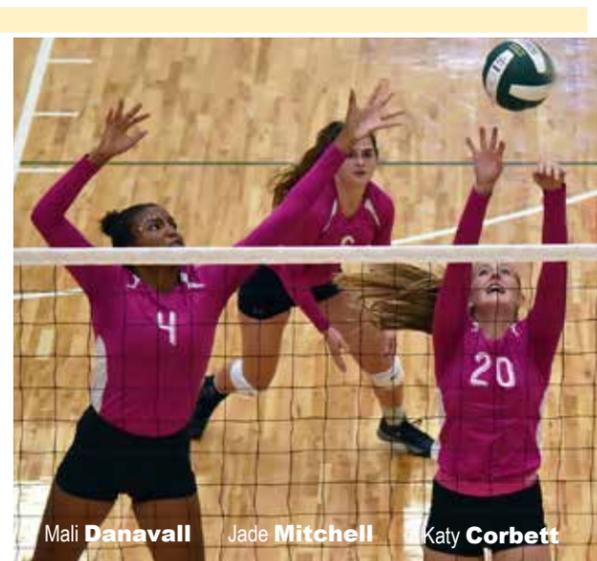
Kate Blackburn



- Kate Blackburn - Most Valuable Player, All-Area 8 First Team
- Katy Corbett - Coach's Award, All-Area 8 Second Team
- Jade Mitchell - Indian Award, All-Area 8 Honorable Mention
- Damali Danavall - All-Area 8 First Team
- Lillie Free - All-Area 8 Honorable Mention



From left: Rebekah Jennings, Meredith Anderson, Jade Mitchell, Katy Corbett, Mali Danavall, Santy Dembele, Lillie Free, Abby Carlan, Kate Blackburn, Evette Corwin.



Mali Danavall Jade Mitchell Katy Corbett

## Senior shout-out

Senior volleyball players and managers were recognized during the last home match in September. Pictured, from left: Si Xuan Li of China (manager), Mandy Santana of Summerville, SC (manager), Damali Danavall of Jonesboro and Jade Mitchell of Cornelia. Congratulations to these individuals for their outstanding contributions to TFS volleyball.



# Varsity soccer team shows tremendous growth over the course of the 2018 campaign

At the beginning of the 2018 mens soccer season two veteran coaches, Brett Adams and Wade Rhodes, were introduced to a veteran squad. According to head coach Brett Adams, the season began with many talented players but a real lack of teamwork. "One of our greatest achievements was transitioning from individuality to team play," Adams said. "We then began to play with greater intensity and to play beyond ourselves. We embraced a sense of corporate commitment. All of these led to heightened team performance far beyond simple individual contribution."

Developing players stepped in when the inevitable injuries occurred. Many of the starters were forced to shift into other positions to fill the gaps. "These are simple mechanical movements of any team but when accompanied by willing attitudes they breed a desirable team culture," Adams continued. "I am very proud of these young men. They practiced harder, played with GREAT intensity throughout the season, played less selfishly and played with GREAT orientation. Well done, TFS soccer team."

- Sammy Davis - Best Offensive Player
- Mohamed Kanu - Best Defensive Player
- Marvin Thiennukul - Top Performer
- Luke Johnson - Coach's Award



Luke Johnson



Ajani McIntosh

Front row (kneeling), from left: Cainan Yaskiewicz, Marvin Thiennukul, Justin Yu, Luke Johnson, Jun Woo Kim, Tomiwa Sofela, Maik Murenzi, Alex Adams, Hanwu Fang, River Fox Nickelson, Samuel Dunlap. Back row (standing) from left: Brett Adams (head coach), Joe Griswold, Junho So, Rey David Cruz Vargas, Alfie Barnor, Mohamed Kanu, Sebastian Herrera, Sammy Davis, Ajani McIntosh, Henrik Wiberg, Reese English, Wade Rhodes (assistant coach).



For 2018-19 the former middle school coed soccer team has been split into boys and girls middle school teams. While the girls team will play in the spring the boys squad kicked off in August and enjoyed a very successful 6-3 record on the way to a second place finish in the Tri-State Conference (and just a few penalty kicks from first place).

Head coach Travis Mullis was justifiably proud of his charges and praised the number of players who participated in spring training, summer training and summer soccer camp. He was also quite vocal in his praise for the team's enthusiastic participation in their Habersham ReStore GREAT service project (see page 13).

Seventh grade captain Austin Ball thanked his teammates in an email: "Thanks for the amazing season - we were all together as one."

## MS boys soccer enjoys stellar season



Front row (kneeling) from left: Henry Bowman, Koen Eller, Clay Kafsky, Jacob Mitchell, David Plaisted, James Brown, Emmet Sims, Jackson Pollock, Jared Mullis, Morgan Messer, Tatum Myers, David Hu, Jason Zhou, Cole Borchers, KC Respress. Back row (standing) from left: Travis Mullis (head coach), Jack Zhong, Talan Adams, Josiah Turney, Reilly Chatman, Jackson Cording, Nick Edenfield, Andrew Whittle, Eli Damron, Dan Griswold, Jake Wehrstein, Logan James (assistant coach). Not pictured: Austin Ball.



Lucy Alexander

TFS has a history of unique home-themed meets and this year was no exception. Each of these events is a leadership opportunity for our athletes to shine the “mountain light” of Tallulah Falls School. These include the Relay Carnival, Cookies ‘n Quote XC Festival (over 1000 home baked cookies and quotes provided in decorated bags with runner names) and the Heroes Invite, a new tradition where every runner places the name of a person they are running for that day in a basket. The popular Harrier Harvest draws a great group of schools and hundreds of runners giving our team an opportunity to decorate the course with hay bales, posters, signs and banners celebrating the beautiful fall season. The home season concludes with Senior Day with every senior from both home and visiting teams recognized.

Junior Sarah Edwards contributed a significant, memorable amount to various projects within these. Caleb Griffis and Will Jackson strengthened the annual camping trip tradition and Maria Whitson hosted the team’s spaghetti supper.

Other highlights include freshman Lucy Alexander who ran the second fastest time in TFS girls cross country history at the Mountain Invite (21:19.8). Several lady harriers have performed well enough to earn a spot on the cross country Legacy List: junior Sophie Alexander (No. 8), junior Maria Whitson (No. 9) and freshman Sophie Herrera (no. 10).

Boys team highlights include sophomore Grey Bourlet who placed 22nd at the Area Championship, followed by senior Zac Smith (24th) and senior Caleb Griffis (34th). Senior Will Jackson placed 13th JV, (58th overall).

**Caleb Griffis - GREAT Teammate and GREAT Leadership**  
**Zac Smith - Top Performer**  
**Grey Bourlet - Most Improved**  
**Xing Fan - Coach’s Award (JV)**  
**Sophie Alexander - GREAT Leadership**  
**Lucy Alexander - Top Performer**  
**Maria Whitson - GREAT Teammate**

**Varsity boys and girls cross country**



Front row, from left: Pengyue Peter Wang (manager), Eva Wiggins (manager), Alycia Morales (manager), Matthew Justice, Colton Augustine, Sophie Herrera, Karis Tatum, Sophie Alexander, Laurel Smith, Maria Whitson, Sarah Edwards, Lucy Alexander, Ethan Wanner, Chaz Mullis; back row, from left: Scott Neal (head coach), Kale Corbett, Minxing (Wilson) Si, Haokun (David) Cheng, Yukun (Tom) Fu, Will Jackson, Zhiyuan Zhou, Xing Fan, Grey Bourlet, Darren Fortner, Caleb Griffis, Zac Smith, Eli Sims, Zi Shrek Wang, Collin Kelly and Tim Corbett (asst. coach).



Caleb Griffis

**Seniors’ last race**

**Senior Harriers** ran their final home race at the TFS farm course during a rain-soaked Harrier Harvest race in October. Shown from left: Zac Smith of Clarkesville, Caleb Griffis of Martin, Will Jackson of Clarkesville and Xing Fan of China.



**more tfs fall sports**

**JV Volleyball team**

Coach Whitney Branson guided this group of mainly 8th and 9th graders to an impressive 18-5 season before falling in the area championship game.

**Sarah Jennings - Coach’s Award**  
**Allie Dalton - GREAT Leadership**

From left: Zhiyang Shu (manager), Mai CiCi Miyashita (manager), Sarah Jennings, Saniya Harrigan, Bralen Allen, Nancy Fisher, Iray Adeleke, Kaylee Taylor, Barrett Whitener, Brinna Docsol, Allie Dalton, Emily Church, Whitney Branson (head coach).



**Boys and girls middle school cross country**

Shown, front row, from left, Susan Nichols, assistant coach, Mallory Higgins, Maggie Shelton, Kate Trotter, Emma Jackson, Ellie Southards, Sammy Hartman, Avery Hulsey, Haygen James, Molly Mitchell, Emma Barron, Scott Neal (head coach). Back row, from left, Tim Corbett (assistant coach), Tyler Farmer, Brit Shaw, Will Seaman, Daniel Shin, Bryan Cope, Colton Hicks, Blair Moore, Henry Rickman, Lincoln Hall.



The middle school boys cross country team won the Tri-State championship for the fifth time in the nine year league history this season. At the championships every TFS Indian set their personal 3K course

**MS boys XC take Tri-State conference title**

record. Eighth grader Colton Hicks moved from No. 29 to No.13 on the TFS legacy list with a time of 12:13.57. Teammate 7th grader Brit Shaw ran the course in 12:43 securing the runner-up position.



The boys team enjoyed a dominant season finishing 8-1 against a very strong schedule. Coach Lisa Wilcox praised 8th grader Benjamin Okoronkwo who started at No. 3 singles but worked his way up to the No. 1 singles position. Wilcox also singled out 6th grader Tanner Davis (5-0 for the year) as her most improved player.

**Middle school boys tennis**

Shown, from left, are Everett VanOrman, TJ Cox, Jake Owensby, Hutson Eller, Benjamin Okoronkwo, Nelson Wilkinson, Trey Greene, Carter Miller, Justin Graham, Tanner Davis, Aiden VanOrman.



The middle school girls team also finished the season at 8-1. Eighth grader Elleson Eubank finished the season at No. 1 singles after starting at the No. 2 position, posting an 8-1 season record. Coach Wilcox praised 8th grader Cassidy Hayes’ beautiful technique, naming her the most improved player.

**Middle school girls tennis**

Shown, from left, are Kyndal Anderson, Landry Carnes, Christy Hulsey, Annabelle Jackson, Elleson Eubank, Cassidy Hayes, Cecily Tucker, Madeline Martin, Keygan Antosiak, Lizzie Huebner.



Student-angler Marshall Williams of Toccoa returned recently from a not-soon-forgotten experience in upstate New York along the Canadian border. On Aug. 21-26, Williams, a member of the Tallulah Falls School Bass Fishing team, traveled to Waddington, NY to serve as a marshal in the 2018 Bassmaster Elite tournament on the St. Lawrence River.

A typical tournament day for Williams involves fishing and hopefully, catching bass, but the mornings in New York were different as he headed toward the boat ramp before daybreak without a rod and reel. In the place of his TFS team jersey, he wore an official Bassmaster marshal hat and shirt, jumping in the boat of a Bassmaster pro angler instead of the boat with his teammate and captain.

On the first day, he served as a marshal for professional angler Shinichi Fukae to ensure his adherence to the strenuous rules of professional bass tournaments where the financial stakes are high.

Bassmaster takes the marshal position very seriously as these professional anglers are not just fishing for fun, they are fishing for substantial money – the first-place winner of the Bassmaster Elite took home \$100,000.

“There were older men and a couple of women as marshals, but I think I may have been the youngest one there,” he said. “Most of the Bassmaster representatives I spoke with throughout the process were very surprised I was a high school student.”

Williams was paired with professional angler Cliff Prince on the second day. “Mr. Prince told me afterward that I was ‘an outstanding young man’ and if I was ever in his area to call him and he would take me fishing!”

After attending a meeting for all the marshals at the end of day two, Williams was excited to hear he had been selected for a third day and would be paired with Seth Feider. “Seth [Feider] turned out to be the most exciting to watch. He fished like a madman all day wearing a black sweatshirt and his rain pants,” he said of the pro, sometimes called ‘The Amazing Feider-Man’.

Williams is no amateur when it comes to fishing, recently starting his fifth year with Georgia B.A.S.S. Nation High School fishing, and it was through GBNHS’s Facebook page he heard that Bassmasters was looking for marshals for the St.

**2017-18 Bass Fishing Awards**

- Most Improved - Thomas Harris
- Top Performer(s) - Marshall Harrelson, Marshall Williams
- State Qualifiers - Caleb Griffis, Caden Griffis, Marshall Harrelson and Marshall Williams
- National Qualifiers - Marshall Harrelson, Marshall Williams

Lawrence River tournament. He applied for the slot and a few weeks later received an acceptance letter.

“The hardest part was not to being able to fish,” Williams said of marshaling for three days straight. “I’ve been on the water with a rod and reel since I was very little and this was a new experience for me. It made me realize how my dad, my team’s boat captain, feels every time he serves as the captain for me in all of my Georgia B.A.S.S. Nation High School tournaments.”

“As a high school angler, it was great to have the experience to spend time with guys I look up to. I am able to improve my own game by learning from them,” he said. “It was cool being able to see such a different area of the United States and the way you have to fish up there. Of course, meeting all the pros was an awesome experience. All the Elite Series pros I met were very personable, nice and easy to talk to. They are just regular guys, like me.”



**Marshall  
the  
marshal**

**TFS student angler enjoys opportunity to closely observe professional anglers while serving as a tournament official**



Williams with professional anglers Seth Feider (top) Shinichi Fukae (middle) and Cliff Prince (bottom).



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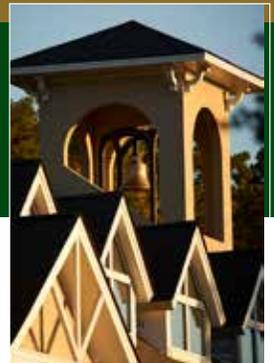
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